

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CPR-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00

SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20

DRC-01 /180 W

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P 201315Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1091

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5959

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EFIN, PE

SUBJECT: RESIGNATION OF FINANCE MINISTER

REF: LIMA 5903

1. RESIGNATION OF FORMER MINISTER ECONOMY AND FINANCE
GUILLERMO MARCO DEL PONT WAS FOLLOWED JULY 18 BY RESIGNA-
TION OF DIRECTOR SUPERIOR (VICE MINISTER) LUIS GUIULFO,
WHO HAS BEEN REPLACED BY SENIOR MINISTRY TEHNICIAN,
ROBERTO KEIL ROJAS. PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT, DR. KEIL
HAD HELD THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ECONOMIC STUDIES
IN THE MINISTRY. HE IS SAID TO BE A COMPETENT ECONOMIST
AND OBVIOUSLY HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE NEW MINISTER AND
GENERAL MORALES BERMUDEZ. HE IS THIRTY-NINE YEARS OLD,
STRONG NATIONALIST, HAS A SOMEWHAT HEAVY MANNER AND WHILE
OUTWARDLY POLITE TO US HAS NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY COOPERATIVE.
HE IS SAID TO BE RESPECTED BY BUT DEMANDING OF HIS STAFF,
AND IN APRIL IT WAS RUMORED THAT MARCO DEL PON'S NEW TEAM
WAS TRYING TO EASE HIM OUT OF THE MINISTRY.

2. THERE IS NOW LITTLE DOUBT THAT MARCO DEL PONT'S DE-
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PARTURE WAS THE RESULT OF DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS PER-

FORMANCE RATHER THAN POOR HEALTH ("EXPRESO" QUOTES THE MILITARY HOSPITAL TO THE EFFECT HE HAS BRONCHITIS). GENERAL MORALES BERMUDEZ TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT MINISTRY UNDER MARCO DEL PONT HAD MADE A HASH OF THE NEW IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO RID ITSELF OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, MORALES BERMUDEZ TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WAS AWARE OF WIDESPREAD COMPLAINTS ABOUT INSUFFICIENT EXCHANGE ALLOCATIONS AND FEARS THAT IMPORT SHORTAGES WOULD HARM INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. (AMONG MANY EXAMPLES WHICH HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION ARE SHORTAGES OF REAGENTS FOR EX-CERRO DE PASCO REFINERY OPERATION, RAW MATERIAALS FOR BAYER MAN-MADE FIBER TEXTILE PLANT, SPARE AND REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS, ETC.) MORALES BERMUDEZ AGREED THAT THESE COMPLAINTS WERE LEGITIMATE AND WOULD HAVE TO BE CORRECTED.

3. COMMENT: CHANGES IN FINANCE MINISTRY HAVE SPARKED MANY RUMORS, INCLUDING SOME TO THE EFFECT THAT IT IS SYMPTOMATIC OF CABINET STRUGGLE BETWEEN RADICALS AND MODERATES. WE ARE INCLINED TO DISCOUNT SUCH RUMORS. AT THIS POINT, IT CONTINUES TO APPEAR THAT ROOT CAUSE WAS ECONOMIC IMMATURE AND THAT GOP FOR REASONS AS YET NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR FELT ITSELF IMPELLED TO PLACE MINISTRY ONCE AGAIN IN HANDS OF THOSE LIKELY TO FOLLOW POLICIES AND METHODS WHICH HAD PROVEN SUCCESSFUL DURING MORALES BERMUDEZ'S LONG TENURE AS FINANCE MINISTER.
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